



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CONNECTICUT ARMY NATIONAL GUARD UNIT ALERTED FOR POSSIBLE MOBILIZATION FOR SOUTHWEST ASIA

HARTFORD, Conn., - Maj. Gen. William A. Cugno, Adjutant General and Commander of the Connecticut National Guard, announces that the 242nd Engineer Battalion of Stratford is alerted for possible mobilization by Forces Command in support of either Operation Iraqi Freedom or Operation Enduring Freedom.

“This practice of early notification is new. This plan is designed to give service members the maximum notice before they are mobilized, so they, their families and employers will have time to prepare. This plan is designed to allow for the maximum amount of notification and predictability as stated by the Secretary of Defense and in some occasions the mobilization order could be 90 days after the alert,” said Cugno.

The 242nd Engineer Battalion is headquartered in Stratford and is comprised of approximately 500 soldiers and 3 subordinate units; Company A, in Norwalk, Company B, of Rockville and Company C, in Branford.

The 242nd Engineer Battalion was organized and federally recognized in December 1922 as the 1st Battalion, Coast Artillery Corps in Bridgeport Connecticut. The unit was converted and re-designated as the 242nd Engineer Battalion on July 1, 1961.

(MORE)

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Combat engineers supervise, serve, or assist as a member of a team, squad, section, or platoon to provide combat engineering support to combat forces.

Recently, C Company, 242d Engineer Battalion mobilized and deployed in June 2003 to perform force protection at Ft. Drum, NY, home of the 10th Mountain Division.

These soldiers were part of more than 400 Connecticut soldiers who were called to active duty to provide homeland security in the Northeast region in 2003.

In 1999, the 242nd Engineer Battalion and its subordinate units deployed to California to provide engineer support along the U.S. and Mexican border and to the Dominican Republic to repair schools as part of a humanitarian effort to rebuild communities that suffered losses due to Hurricane Georges in 1998.

The 242nd Engineer Battalion is commanded by Maj. James Gibbons of Asbury, New Jersey.

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